Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

The status of each claim is indicated in parenthetical expression following the claim number.

Claims 1, 3-8, 10-18, and 21-26 remain in this application.

Claims 2, 9, and 19-20 have been cancelled.

No claims are being amended.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A topical composition comprising:

at least about 5.0% (w/v) ascorbic acid;

non-toxic zinc salt; and

water, wherein the composition has a pH of 3.5 to 4.1.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition has a pH of about 3.7 to about 4.0.

4. (Original) The composition of claim 1, further comprising an anti-inflammatory compound.

5. (Original) The composition of claim 4, wherein the anti-inflammatory compound includes sulfur-containing anti-inflammatory compound.

6. (Original) The composition of claim 5, wherein the sulfur-containing anti-inflammatory compound is selected from the group consisting of cystine, cysteine, N-acetyl cysteine, glutathione, cysteamine, S-methylcysteine, methionine and mixtures thereof.

7. (Original) The composition of claim 4, wherein the anti-inflammatory compound includes aminosugar.

8. (Original) The composition of claim 7, wherein the aminosugar includes glucosamine, mannosamine, N-acetylmannosamine, galactosamine, glucosamine-6-phosphate, N-acetylglucosamine, N-acetylmannosamine, N-acetylgalactosamine and mixtures thereof.

9. (Cancelled).

10. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the water is selected from the group consisting of distilled water, deionized water, distilled deionized water and mixtures thereof.

11. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein the non-toxic zinc salt is present in an amount ranging from about 0.5% to about 5% (w/v).

12. (Original) The composition of claim 11, wherein the non-toxic zinc salt is zinc sulfate.

13. (Original) The composition of claim 1, further comprising a tyrosine compound selected from the group consisting of tyrosine, N-acetyl-tyrosine, tyrosine ethyl ester hydrochloride, tyrosine phosphate and mixtures thereof.

14. (Original) The composition of claim 13, comprising about 1 to about 10% (w/v) of the tyrosine compound.

15. (Original) The composition of claim 1, further comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

16. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 15, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier includes glycerol, propylene glycol, sorbitol, hydroxypropylcellulose or a mixture thereof.

17. (Original) The composition of claim 15, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier includes alkyleneglycol, hydroxyalkylcellulose or a mixture thereof.

18. (Previously Presented) A topical composition comprising:

an aqueous solution including at least about 5.0% (w/v) pre-treated ascorbic acid, a non-toxic zinc salt, and having a pH of 3.5 to 4.1.

19. (Cancelled).

20. (Cancelled).

21. (Original) The composition of claim 18, further comprising a stimulant of protein synthesis.

22. (Original) The composition of claim 21, wherein the stimulant of protein synthesis is a tyrosine compound.

23. (Original) The composition of claim 18, further comprising a precursor of melanin synthesis.

24. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 18, comprising about 15% to about 25% (w/v) ascorbic acid.

25. (Original) The composition of claim 18, wherein the topical composition is an aqueous solution, a serum, a lotion, an ointment, a cream, or a gel.

26. (Previously Presented) A topical composition comprising:

an aqueous solution including at least about 5.0% (w/v) pre-treated ascorbic acid, having a pH of 3.5 to 4.1;

a non-toxic zinc salt; and

a tyrosine compound.